

progressionINcorrections

NOV/DEC 2005, Volume 2

Indiana Department of Correction Employee Newsletter

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From the Commissioner...

Welcome to the second edition of **progressionINcorrections!**

As the second largest agency in state government, the Department of Correction is charged with the responsibility of promoting the Governor's agenda - operating on sound business principles and making sure that we operate effectively and efficiently. I am committed to advancing best practices in Indiana's correctional system. This requires developing consistencies to improve operational and program efficiency and staff effectiveness for other agencies to benchmark.

In order to maximize our available resources and introduce innovative programming in the prison environment, I felt it was imperative we also improve efficiencies of our operations, administration and re-entry divisions. By providing better services and first-class programs to the offenders, we are making a positive impact in paving the way to successful transition from prison to community.

We are reinventing our corrections system through evidence-based practices and offender re-entry initiatives to accomplish a significant reduction in the rates of recidivism. Managing offenders at the appropriate level requires resources, policies and quality services. Our goal is to transform the Department into a nationally recognized leader in corrections management. We have gained national recognition for aggressively attacking the methamphetamine epidemic in the prison system and for introducing a faith and character component in the lives of offenders.



J. David Donahue

The success of both voluntary programs has afforded us the opportunity to expand our services throughout the state very quickly. Because of the increased demand by the offender population insisting on successful programming, the Department is finding ways to ramp up on program delivery. We will remain committed to bringing innovative and transportable solutions to bridge the gap between prison and community. This is a win-win situation for everyone.

We have accomplished a lot in a short time and I would like to congratulate Deputy Commissioners Bruce Lemmon, Edward Motley and Julie von Arx for doing a superb job in managing their respective divisions with our mission in mind. Maintaining public safety is our core mission and creating successful opportunities for offender re-entry is our responsibility. Everyone has done an outstanding job and I recognize the hard work and dedication of staff. I expect that employees will continue to sustain performance and strive to be better each day.

I am excited to report that the Department has accomplished several notable benchmarks this quarter, at no new cost to the tax payers of Indiana:

- Partnered with the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles to launch the Inmate Identification Program by providing state-issued identification cards. This

story continued on page 3

Shakespeare Locked Down: Our Shakespeare

Richard Larson, PIO Wabash Valley Correctional Facility

A maximum-security prison does not normally come to mind when it comes to performances of such Shakespearean works as Hamlet, Macbeth and Othello.

But that is exactly what took place in late August at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility.

Nine maximum-security offenders rehearsed their roles for several weeks under the watchful eye of Dr. Laura Bates, Indiana State University Assistant Professor of English.

An audience of staff and offenders enjoyed the one-hour production, which featured original music, plays excerpts and original adaptations, written by offenders housed in the facility's Secured Housing Unit (SHU).

Dr. Bates, part of the Indiana State University Correctional Education Program, launched her Shakespeare in the SHU program two years ago. It is a volunteer effort in which offenders read, discuss and rewrite the works of Shakespeare.

Once an adaptation is complete, it is up to the maximum-security Level IV Drama Group to bring the words to life.

Earlier this year, offender thespians staged a full two-hour original production of the Shakespearean tragedy "Macbeth."

Offender playwright Tim Greenlee, in his own words posed the question: What is the most valuable lesson to be learned from this play? Maybe that the perpetrator of a crime sometimes suffers even more than the victim does. Indeed, many of us in prison for crimes, like the character in this play, ultimately lost the

most important things in life as a result of our actions. Strange perhaps to admit, but this play demonstrates that in the end crime doesn't pay!

The drama is more than just entertaining. The Shakespeare program is designed to improve reading and vocabulary skills, increase respect for others, build self-esteem, hike awareness of emotional well being, honesty in communication, and develop social interaction skills.

Look for additional curtain calls in the future as the group begins its third year of performances and audience self-reflection. ■



The Mission of the Department of Correction

The mission of the Indiana Department of Correction is to maintain public safety and provide offenders with self improvement programs, job skills and family values in an efficient and cost effective manner for a successful return to the community as law-abiding citizens.

To View New PSAs...

click on

<http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>

progressionINcorrections

We welcome all submissions - articles do not have to be theme related. Articles will also be accepted from lay persons or individuals.

Please submit articles to:

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www.in.gov/indcorrection/

Welcome to the second edition of progressionINcorrections story continued from page 1

- is a great success factor for offenders leaving the Department.
- Launched the Re-entry web site for ex-offenders, families and community members. The site can be accessed by visiting www.reentry.in.gov. It hosts links to service providers in local communities, partnership information and the Department's public service announcements.
 - Partnered with state agencies to launch the new Sheriffs' Sex Offender Registry in January 2006. The new registry will be web-based and provide new functionality, including mapping and tracking of sex offenders.
 - Announced the mission changes of the Plainfield Juvenile Facility to become the Plainfield Education and Re-entry Facility.
 - Announced merger between Indiana State Prison and Lakeside Correctional Facility. The consolidation will allow for improved operational effectiveness and better serve the community.
 - Launched a new offender grievance procedure that will significantly change the way offenders seek relief for complaints against staff and conditions of confinement. This new system streamlined the process and includes a computer tracking system, effective December 2005.
 - Partnered with Department of Natural Resources to reduce deer herd and help Feed Indiana's Hungry Initiative. This program will allow offenders to learn deer-processing skills.
 - Finalized contract negotiations for the New Castle Correctional Facility. The new partnership will help the Department fully utilize the facility, meet the on-going capacity needs of the Department and improve our business. Operations begin January 2006.
 - Opened Nation's First Prison-Based Meth Treatment Unit for Women at the Rockville Correctional Facility. The Department is now operating three treatment units focused on fighting the war on meth. In December 2005, the Department introduced its first juvenile-focused meth treatment unit at the North Central Juvenile Facility.
 - Implemented Faith and Character building units at Wabash Correctional Facility, Branchville Correctional Facility, Westville Correctional Facility and Pendleton Correction Facility on November 1. The Department is now operating five units.

Again, I thank you for your hard work and dedication. Please continue the momentum. I would also like to encourage all employees to think about re-energizing the "Ideas for Change" forum. This is a platform for you to share your ideas, suggestions and best practices by e-mailing "Ideas for Change" in GroupWise at idoc@doc.in.gov or writing to the Department at 302. W. West Washington St. Room E334, Indianapolis, IN 46204. ■

F-14 Adoption



F-14 Fighter Aircraft

Miami Correctional Facility staff have adopted an F-14 Fighter Aircraft which is on display at Grissom Air Museum off of U.S. 31.

The F-14 has been decommissioned and the museum is one of the lucky ones to receive the aircraft for display purposes. MCF has adopted the aircraft and has committed to maintaining it. The aircraft is best known for its use in the movie "Top Gun" starring Tom Cruise. After it was demilitarized, the aircraft was brought to the museum for display.

MCF offender labor crews have been used to assist in developing the display area; and staff have volunteered their time to give the plane a "bath" on a couple of occasions this year. ■

Putnamville Offenders Bake 15,330 Brownies to Help Katrina Victims

Humanitarianism and the human instinct to assist those in need is innate inside the walls of the Putnamville Correctional Facility.

During the first week of October, the smell of chocolate drifted over the Putnamville Correctional Facility as the Culinary Arts Department went into a baking frenzy. From dawn to dusk, students, under the direction of Penny Clevenger, the Culinary Arts Instructor, baked over 15,330 brownies, chocolate chip and peanut butter cookies. The crunching and munching by the participants was proof of the success of the baking project.

The cookies were an incentive and a reward for the offenders who made

a \$5.00 donation to the victims of the hurricane. Approximately \$5,100 was raised and will be donated to the American Red Cross for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The fundraiser correlates with Commissioner J. David Donahue's Re-entry Program for the Department. Affording offenders an opportunity to give back to the community and acknowledge their individual responsibility is one way of giving back to the community.

One offender wrote, "I personally felt that it was an opportunity to give back to society in a small way. We may be locked up, but we are human and we care." ■



Re-Entry Initiatives Update

Julie von Arx,
*Deputy Commissioner of Re-entry
and Community Services*

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles is partnering with the Department to provide state authorized identification to soon to be released offenders in a pilot project at the Plainfield Correctional Facility. This has been the number one fundamental barrier experienced by offenders leaving the Department. We anticipate offering these services in all releasing facilities soon. Re-Entry Director, Mike Lloyd, shepherded this initiative and deserves kudos for the effort.

We have formalized an agreement with the Social Security Administration via a Memorandum of Understanding which enables offenders to apply for disability benefits (SSI) 120 prior to release;

Four PLUS units will begin November 1 at Branchville, Putnamville! What we've found from the CIF and IWP PLUS units are: a reduction in grievances, critical incidents, and a cleaner environment. Please stay tuned to a more detailed evaluation coming soon;

The re-engineered unit management and re-entry process has been piloted by four facilities for 60 days and the remaining facilities will be trained by the end of December. The re-entry process begins with a risk and needs assessment upon entry, programming needs identified and scheduled, and the development of an offender's (re-entry accountability plan). The RAP will be managed through the unit team. The RAP will be completed every six months on each offender to insure that the offender is focused upon discharge. Within 180 days of release, the RAP will be sent to Courts,

Probation Departments, Parole, Community Corrections, Faith based and community organizations that have been identified to work with the soon to be released offender. The entire re-entry process will be monitored to insure that each facility is consistent with the process and using unit management correctly.

The Plainfield Juvenile Correctional Facility is changing in mission to the Plainfield Re-entry Education Facility (P.R.E.F). The facility will focus on vocational education, life skills, and employment opportunities with potential employers for offenders. Superintendent Curt Correll is working feverishly developing policies, procedures, job descriptions, and re-entry opportunities that heretofore, did not exist within the Department. Stay tuned for the opening of this innovative, pioneering facility.

Parole will be an integral part of re-entry as they will participate in unit teams when necessary, will aid in completing discharge plans, and will be focused on reintegration efforts. Director Randy Focken has worked diligently to have policies and procedures rewritten for the first time in decades. He has introduced progressive community supervision which will include intermediate sanctions (through potential partnering with Community Corrections) and a violations matrix that will enhance public safety and provide consistency in the violation process. The Parole Board is also working with the Department to support the use of intermediate sanctions. ■

Battle of the Badges



Sgt. Wilcox donates a double pint of blood during Miami County's Battle of the Badges Blood Drive.

More than 45 Miami Correctional Facility staff participated in the Miami County American Red Cross Battle of the Badges Blood Drive in August 2005.

The facility has participated in the battle for the past 4 of 5 years. The competition is between law enforcement and fire fighters in the county. Whoever gives the most blood wins a traveling trophy to display for a year. Of the 132 pints collected for the Law Enforcement side, 45 were from Miami Correctional Facility staff members.

The firefighters won the battle this year, by donating 149 pints of blood. This is a fun way for the staff to get involved in the community and give something back as well.

The staff always look forward to the battle and the friendly competition. ■

Powered by:
Indiana Department of Correction

be
smart.
choose
freedom.

"Super Slammer" Participates in Riley Days Parade

The Pendleton Correctional Facility recently had an opportunity to display a vehicle restored by students of the Auto Body Vocational Program during the annual Riley Days Celebration and Parade in Greenfield on October 8th.

The customized vehicle (a 1986 GMC S-15 surplus PEN Products pick-up truck) designated the "Super Slammer" was designed and restored in conjunction with Commissioner Donahue's project/contest which was initiated to showcase examples of vehicle restoration produced within Department of Correction Auto Body Programs.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Auto Body Instructor Charles Stoner drove the



Super Slammer at Riley's Parade

"Super Slammer" during the parade that began at the Greenfield Central High School parking lot, proceeded through the center of town, and concluded at Riley Park.

Signs were placed on the vehicle to identify it as a custom design created by students of the Pendleton Correctional Facility Vocational Auto Body Program.

In addition to the "Super Slammer", Mr. Stoner entered his own 1953 Chevrolet pickup truck in the parade that was also restored by students in his class. Mr. Stoner was extremely pleased with the many positive comments that were communicated by parade spectators in reaction to the vehicles.

This was a great opportunity to increase public awareness of Vocational Training Programs offered within our facilities that serve to enhance an offender's ability to achieve a successful community re-entry. ■

2005 Nature Walk



Heather Simpson and Mindy Hizer walk along the beach.

Thirty-four members of the MCF staff took to the pavement at Mississinewa Reservoir Sept. 14 as part of the Governor's Walk at the State Parks.

Staff walked a three-mile route, which took them along the beach of the reservoir. While it rained before and after the walk, during the walk it was perfect conditions. ■

Getting INShape at Clifty Park

To help promote health and fitness in Indiana, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources invited all active participants of INShape Indiana to visit one of Indiana's 24 state parks for free on Saturday, September 17. Taking a brisk 30-minute walk that raises your heart rate can help lower your blood pressure, improve your cholesterol, and shed those pounds you want to lose. So, come take a walk at one of Indiana's state parks or reservoirs this Fall to enjoy the beautiful scenery, have some fun, and do something good for your health.



Deputy Commissioner Bruce Lemmon leads walk at Clifty Park

Many of you participated; congratulations.

Be Informed about Indiana Hoosiers involved in Governor Mitch Daniels' INShape Indiana initiative have collectively lost 1,810 lbs. to date. ■

www.inshape.in.gov <<http://www.inshape.in.gov/>>

Log on. Lighten Up.

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels
www.in.gov/gov

2005 Commissioner's Awards

The Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner, J. David Donahue announced the recipients of the first 2005 Commissioner's Awards, given to five employees whose leadership, dedication and excellence have significantly improved the operations, administration, and re-entry efforts of the Department. The winners were presented with the awards during the Indiana Corrections Association conference at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana. The ceremony was attended by 350 employees.

The five categories for the 2005 Commissioner's Awards were the Who Moved My Cheese Award, Innovator of the Year, Employee of the Year, Facility of the Year and Superintendent of the Year. Employees were nominated by peers and administrators of the Department.

The award recipient for the Who Moved My Cheese Award was presented to Keith Butts, Assistant to the Superintendent at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. This award recognizes an individual who has been presented with changes and possessed the ability to see the big picture, and motivating others to accept the Department's new philosophy to incorporate the three E's of Excellence in the process.

The recipient of the Innovator of the Year award was Dr. Cyprian Agba, Ph.D, Education Supervisor at the Westville Correctional Facility. This award recognizes an individual who has enhanced the facility/department process through the use of the three-E's, effectiveness, efficiency and employees.

The Employee of the Year Award was presented to Lori Harshbarger, Program Director at the Logansport Juvenile Intake/Diagnostic Facility. This award recognizes an employee in corrections who has made one of the following contributions: improved re-entry process for the offenders; promoted security measures at the facility; and added value to services.



From Left to Right: 2005 Commissioner's Awards Winner Keith Butts, Lori Harshbarger, Commissioner J. David Donahue, Dr. Cyprian Agba, Ph.D, Superintendent Ed Buss, and Superintendent Al Parke

The Facility of the Year Award was presented to Putnamville Correctional Facility. This award recognizes the facility which has collaborated with the public and community to aid in the re-entry

process as well as demonstrated the use of the three E's, effectiveness, efficiency, and employees.

The final award was presented to the Superintendent of Indiana State Prison, Ed Buss, for Superintendent of the Year. This award is given to a superintendent who possess skills, knowledge, judgment and communications that have made a positive impact on offenders, staff, the agency and the community.

"The Department takes great pride in the work and commitment of its employees to keep the agency at the leading edge of corrections, while providing public safety," said Commissioner Donahue. "The work done by this year's winners is a terrific example of the driving excellence throughout the organization. Congratulations to all the winners." ■

Awards

LORI HARSHBARGER
Employee of the Year

DR. CYPRIAN AGBA
Innovator of the Year

ED BUSS
Superintendent of the Year

KEITH BUTTS
Who Moved My Cheese Award

PUTNAMVILLE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
Facility of the Year

CHAPLAIN GLEASON HACKETT
Chaplain of the Year

HEATHER PIERCE
Parole Division Employee of the Year

CATHERINE CHMIELEWSKI
Re-entry Program Leader Award

ROSE VAISVILAS
Extra Mile Award

JOSEPH FARLEY
Correctional Employee Award

CAPTAIN HELEN HOGARTH
Correctional Supervisor Award

ANDROS ZAKNOUN
Valor Employee Award

PAUL MYERS
Helping Hand Award

KAREN HURST
Employee Recruitment Award

STEVE FOX
Construction / Facility of the Year

JULIE SMITH
Administrative Employee of the Year

NICOLE D. ARB
PEN Employee of the Year

★ DOC Superstars ★

Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility

Francis Campbell

Youth Service Officer Francis Campbell is a DOC Superstar. When the

new Comprehensive Case Management System rolled out for the juvenile facilities, Francis quickly approached staff to work with the students on projects near and dear to her heart. She saw the potential in our students to reach out to other people in need, and used new skills to help them along the way. Strapping young boys that are ready to dig ditches, mow lawns, and chop wood are learning a new and different skill. Through quilting, crocheting, and needlecraft she has helped students reach people hurting and in need.

Francis can be seen working with as many as thirty students teaching them to crochet or quilt. Many of the projects are designed to help individuals or groups in the community. This has become a great outreach opportunity for the students to achieve their community service hours. Opportunities for students to reach out have included: Quilts for non-profit organizations (Erin's House - an outreach to grieving children used a quilt at their silent auction), Teddy Bears for a local hospice, chemo hats for individuals who have lost their hair to chemotherapy, pillow puppies for Riley hospital, lap blankets for Parkview hospice, afghans for agencies (the students did an American flag afghan for a raffle at the local VFW), and garments and afghans for disaster relief for earthquake victims in Pakistan. Students have spent hours working on projects to either send home to family members or give to non-profit organizations. One such student worked diligently with Francis to make



Items made by Francis Campbell

a special baby blanket for his new little girl. He took great pride in being able to give her something special, since he could not be with her himself. Francis has enlisted the help of local agencies to assist in the project, such as a local

crochet guild and Hobby Lobby. Hobby Lobby has donated yarn and material, and has allowed some of the craft to be displayed in their front window. She organized a public show in our conference room so individuals could come in and see what the students have made, and talk to those that worked hard on the crafts. She has also been highlighted in the Journal Gazette (July 23, 2005) and Frost Illustrated (November 19, 2003). Francis has given many students a new outlook on what they can accomplish with their own hands, and in turn help out the community. Northeast Juvenile is very proud to have someone like Francis taking initiative to work with Indiana's students. ■

Rockville Correctional Facility

Captain Helen Hogarth was assigned as the Shift Commander for one of the 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shifts in May 2001. In that capacity Captain Hogarth was responsible for managing her shift with an inordinate number of new, inexperienced staff.

Hogarth proved to be an exceptional trainer and mentor to her staff. The trainees assigned to Capt. Hogarth's bracket emerged confident and competent in all areas of their job. Recently Capt. Hogarth accepted the challenge of directing the CLIFF Unit

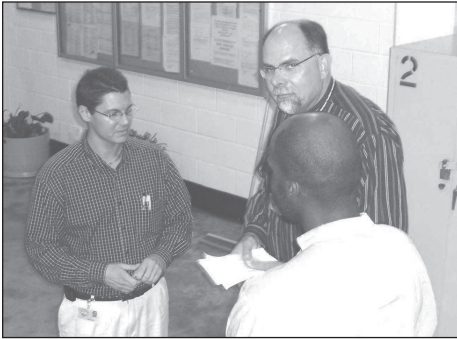


Captain Helen Hogarth

at Rockville. She has and continues

to research the subject of Methamphetamine Treatment in order to insure the success of the program. Captain Hogarth is a very positive role model for staff and offenders alike. ■

New PLUS Unit Opens at Wabash Valley



Assistant Superintendent of Re-Entry Dick Brown and Chaplain Norris Keirn

The doors of change have opened wide at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, and it's a real PLUS for the maximum-security facility. PLUS, or Purposeful Living Units Serve, is a faith and character based housing unit.

Chaplain Norris Keirn oversees the day-to-day operation of the new unit and he's been busy spreading the word, asking for help to get PLUS off the ground.

Donations have poured in from across the country, from Texas to Kansas. Members of the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Advisory Board have donated over \$1,100 to the cause. Over \$5,000 dollars in money and materials have been pledged to the unit, funding such much needed equipment as a printer, books, laptop computer and on and on.

The PLUS program requires no additional state funding to operate, depending on donations and volunteer support. The unit will provide offenders who choose to take part with the tools they need to successfully return to society. Emphasis is placed on spiritual, moral and character development in community with others, determined to improve their lives.

Chaplain Keirn has, over the past 30 days, pulled the resources and curriculum together, and above all the community volunteers needed to launch the new unit, which eventually will house 176 offenders. ■

Meth Unit Graduation



Commissioner J. David Donahue addresses the graduation class.

October 13, Commissioner J. David Donahue addressed the first graduating class of the CLIFF program and their families at the Miami Correctional Facility in Bunker Hill, Indiana. CLIFF stands for Clean Lifestyle Is Freedom Forever.

The 22 CLIFF graduates enrolled in the program when the 204-bed treatment unit opened in April. The unit was developed in response to the expanding inmate population who require

treatment for methamphetamine abuse. The Department launched a total of three CLIFF Therapeutic Communities to aggressively provide treatment solutions to the inmate population, including Wabash Valley Correctional Facility and Rockville Correctional Facility. All units provide the same comprehensive treatment plan to its offenders, which includes teaching viable life skills, relapse prevention strategies, and best placement for continuing growth. ■



Superintendent John Van Natta presents certificate to offender.

SERT Training Academy

Fifteen staff from Central Office and seven different facilities participated in a Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) training academy from October 11 through October 22, 2005.

This was a basic training academy which teaches discipline, teamwork and the basic fundamentals in SERT firearms and SERT tactics. The training is intense with little or no down time and structured around the concept of always being prepared for the unexpected and the worst.

Trainees at this academy are evaluated each day by instructors in attitude,

teamwork and performance with participation not being an option. This is the final step in the five phase application process and those who pass all five phases will be selected to become a SERT member.

While everyone who participates in an academy is not always selected for the teams we are certainly proud of all SERT academy participants for their willingness to become a member of an emergency team and the fortitude they displayed in completing this kind of training. ■

Offender Work Crews Assist In Clean Up of Tornado Disaster

Work crews from the Branchville Correctional Facility have been providing much-needed manpower in cleaning up refuse in the aftermath of the tornado that affected Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. Seventeen offenders in three work crews have been re-assigned to assist in the clearing up of the storm damage in the town of DeGonia Springs and at Angel Mounds State Park.

Richard Clark, Superintendent of Branchville has notified local officials that offender work crews are available and more standing by to offer clean up assistance.

Commissioner J. David Donahue said, "The Indiana Department of Correction is committed to helping communities in time of need. We are dedicated to



Offenders from the Branchville Correctional Facility clean up tornado storm debris along State Road 62 in DeGonia Springs.

assisting in the clean up and restoration of the area parks and public property."

Offenders assigned to the tornado project readily volunteered to help and are pleased to aid in the clean up of the tornado disaster. ■

SECC State Employees Community Campaign

The SECC State Employees Community Campaign as has been launched at the Indiana Department of Correction

Commissioner J. David Donahue, developed a team of executive and line staff that was charged with outlining strategies that would assist in reaching the Department's goal of **\$ 200,000.00**.

Deputy Commissioner, Bruce Lemmon was asked to head up the committee and along with the following staff has initiated several ongoing fundraising ideas:

Rondle Anderson	Ed Buss
Keith Butts	Jamie Houston
Angel Ragan	Julie von Arx
Khadijah Muhammad	

Each facility is being asked to design their own fundraising strategies in

order to supplement the amount that would have been donated by over 2000 employees that are no longer employed by the agency.

During the month of November in addition to pledges made by staff, other fundraising ideas such as candy/fruit sales, garage sales, pitch in dinners and a Baby Picture Guessing Contest will take place. The final fundraiser will be on November 29, with winners of various contests being announced along with the final figures raised by the department.

All Department of Correction employees are encouraged to support the SECC.

Contract employees may make a onetime contribution towards the 2005/06 State Employees Community Campaign. ■

PEN Products Aids in Katrina Relief



(Left): Cherie Fox bathing a rescued dog from the debris in New Orleans.

PEN Products participated as a Division of the Indiana Department of Correction by producing a truckload of water packets at the Food Plant at the Correctional Industrial Facility and providing the transportation of donated clothing and supplies from DOC employees to the Gulf Coast for the Katrina Relief effort in September 2005.

In October, two staff members from PEN Products central office also participated individually by giving of their time and talents to aid in disaster relief. Cherie Fox, Customer Service Representative, made two trips to ravaged Gulf Coast to provide medical care for injured and sick animals. She worked with the Best Friends Animal Society at the St. Francis Animal Sanctuary in Mississippi and made a trip into New Orleans to rescue animals. Steve Harless, Sales Manager, spent three weeks working with the Red Cross at its Biloxi, Mississippi organizing and overseeing shelters. Steve has previously served the World Health Organization (WHO) in both Afghanistan and later in Indonesia following the tsunami. ■

Indiana State Prison earns its recommendation

Governor Mitch Daniels personally thanked employees at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City for their work in helping the prison gain its recommendation for accreditation from the American Correctional Association.

"You're probably the least appreciated employees of all the agencies I've been hired to work with," Daniels said in front of a packed house in the prison's chapel. "People need to be reminded what life would be like if you weren't on the job."

In its 145th year, the prison received the national accreditation, which, according to the American Correctional Association, provides facilities with "improved staff training and development, assessment of strengths and weaknesses of prison programs, better defense against lawsuits, the establishment of measurable criteria for upgrading operations, improved staff morale and professionalism, a safer environment for staff and offenders, reduced liability insurance costs and performance-based benefits."

New prison Superintendent Ed Buss lauded staff for the "long, hard work



Governor Mitch Daniels making rounds to congratulate the Indiana State Prison staff on a job well done!

it took to achieve" the honor, which he said is only granted when a facility passes tests measured by some 500 assessment standards.

"It's a great way to measure ourselves against other maximum security facilities throughout the country," Buss said. "This is a very special day."

Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue called the Department a "family" and said he was "very proud to be on your team."

"You met the challenge with enthusiasm and pride," he said. "Which is evident by the findings of the auditor of the (American Corrections Association)." ■

CTI Graduation



From left to right: Front Row: CO Joshua Jones, Training Officer Jennifer Stoll, Maintenance Repair Person Bruce Friar, Training Officer Tracey Poer
Back Row: CO Helen Jordan, CO Brian Knauff, CO James Collingsworth, CO Michael Kehler, CO James Lavender, Training Officer Charles Williams

Miami Correctional Facility recently commenced its first Combined Regional Academy graduation. Superintendent John R. VanNatta was the keynote speaker, Assistant Superintendent of Administration Michael Osburn, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Terry Royal, Capt. Larry Taylor and Correctional Officer Matthew Andrick made up a panel in which participants were given the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. VanNatta and Darrell Fox presented special recognition for Honor's Award to Bruce Friar. He was also recognized for Teamwork. Helen Jordan was recognized for Professionalism. ■

Recommended for ACA Accreditation

**Indiana State Prison
Rockville Correctional Facility
Pendleton Correction Facility**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mums for Sale!



Westville Correctional Facility has mums for sale. The proceeds go to the backpack charity. They reduced the price! (great deal if you are into mums). They still have a thousand left! ■

PLUS Activities at the Correctional Industrial Facility

American Red Cross

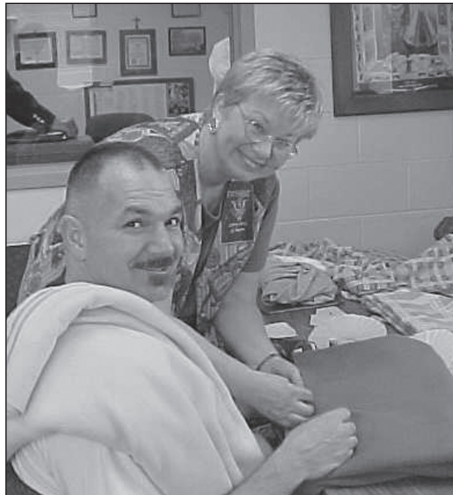
The American Red Cross collected \$2,077.51 worth of checks for the Katrina Hurricane relief fund. All monies were collected/donated by our offender population.



Chaplain Bob Schaefer and Angie Humphrey from Red Cross working with offenders.

Sewing Activity

In the PLUS program, participants made lap robes for patients at the Manor Care



Offender pieces quilt.

Health Services, Anderson. Manor Care is a rehabilitation facility for the elderly. The lap robes were given to elderly residents, most wheelchair bound, whose care is paid for by Medicaid and do not receive additional support from family or friends.

The offenders had to sew the material together, by hand, turn their work right-side-out, stitch the opening, then do a decorative blanket stitch all around the 40x50 lap robe. Then, they tacked the pieces together to make a quilt effect.

Chili Cook-off

A chili cook-off on October 26th, raised about \$100 for our Employee Appreciation Fund. Over 50 staff enjoyed sampling the entries and prizes were awarded. ■



Chili cook-off winners.

Chaplain Training

DOC Chaplains gathered for training recently at the Correctional Training Institute in New Castle. Shortly after being appointed as Commissioner, J. David Donahue added thirteen new Chaplain positions throughout the state. In his address to the Chaplains, Commissioner Donahue challenged them to become more involved in facility Executive Staff meetings to educate staff on such issues as recruitment of new Chaplains and volunteers, upcoming events, religious, diversity and re-entry issues.

Commissioner Donahue also encouraged them to look for new opportunities to connect with community resources to facilitate the successful re-entry of offenders back into the community. The importance of the new Character and Faith Based Units rounded out the

challenge to the Chaplains. Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) have been launched at Correctional Industrial Facility and Indiana Womens Prison. Coming on line in November will be Branchville, Pendleton, Wabash Valley and Westville Correctional Facilities followed by Miami, Pendleton Juvenile and Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facilities in January.

Deputy Commissioner Julie Von Arx, Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ed Buss, and Acting Director of Religious Services Doris Woodruff-Filbey assisted the Chaplains in a review of policies and procedures that relate to religious practices. The focus of the review was to discover any areas that pose unnecessary roadblocks to the reentry process. One example is the restriction of volunteers in the facilities from having

any contact with offenders after release. These volunteers are some of our best resources for helping newly released offenders get through those critical first two or three days by providing a ride to the parole office or job interview site, and helping with basic needs such as food and clothing.

Also present at the training event was Lieutenant Colonel Steve Hall, who was still on active duty after being deployed for a year to Afghanistan as an Indiana Army National Guard Chaplain. Rev. Hall has now finished his military duties and returned to his position as Director of Religious Services and Community Involvement. With the PLUS units, additional Chaplains, and new re-entry initiatives he has hit the ground running. ■



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Plainfield Re-Entry & Education Facility (P.R.E.F.) Job Opportunities

The first of its kind in Indiana and one of the first of its kind nation-wide, the former Plainfield Juvenile Facility is busily ramping up preparations to open this month. To accommodate the needs of the offender population, 49 new positions have been created and the facility and DOC HR staff are now actively recruiting to fill these vacancies.

A job fair will be held at the facility on Monday, December 5th and Tuesday, December 6th from 12PM - 8 PM to highlight these new opportunities and the unique operating characteristics of a re-entry facility.

The positions available at the job fair will include:

- Correctional Officer
- Re-Entry Specialist 2
- Re-entry Specialist 3
- Correctional Lieutenant
- Release Coordinator

All qualified applicants are encouraged to attend.

Current Department of Correction employees and State employees can apply for the available positions on-line at:

<http://www.in.gov/jobs/stateemployment/apply.html>

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Job Fair